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Control: 4730
Rec'd: November 8, 1958
1:52 p.m.

FROM: Benghazi

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 231, November 8, 1 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
G.M. Razi
DATE May 6, 1982

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Our 213.

At end hours conversation with Prime Minister November 6 on other subjects, he warned I would be receiving note from him through Foreign Ministry next week about base agreement, adding it would probably create stir in Washington. He admitted Wheelus Field was important militarily but said we would have to pay for it. I argued that Wheelus is and should be considered part of Libyas contribution to free world defense, that it and other US overseas bases provided the overall deterrent to the Soviet Unions aggressive policies and provided best guarantee of continued peace.

Kubar indicated he believed Soviets might be setting up their own ring of overseas airbases by telling me in strict confidence that, according report Libyan Embassy Cairo, recent 400 million ruble loan to Egyptians had involved concessions for establishment of 2 Soviet airbases in Egypt and 1 in Syria. He implied Aswan Dam was only covered for real purpose of loan, pointing out that agreement had never been reached between Egypt and Sudan on waters of upper Nile which was prerequisite to building dam.

In Kubars determined search for unfettered funds to support his increasing budget and public works program, he has probably decided to put squeeze on us by raising annual "rent" on Wheelus. Since he was reluctant give me preview

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of Ministry's note and I already overstayed my hour, I got no further hint of what to expect. Feel we must anticipate some public reference to base and Libyas policy regarding it in speech from throne at opening of Parliament December 8. Consequently am inclined raise it with Kubar if not forthcoming within next 10 days. Any thoughts from Department would be welcome (DEPTEL 226).

JONES

TJM/7

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